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**Subject:** RSC Distribution: Action Item - DOT/PHMSA FRM for EPA Review: "Pipeline Safety: Plastic Pipe Rule"  
**Attachments:** Plastic Pipe Final Rule to OMB.DOCX; Plastic Pipe Final Rule RIA FRFA to OMB.DOC

For comment by COB Monday, 07/16.

These interagency review documents are deliberative and pre-decisional and may not be shared or discussed with anyone outside of the Executive Branch.

Attached for EO 12866 / 13563 interagency review and comment is a final rule and associated RIA from DOT/PHMSA entitled "**Pipeline Safety: Plastic Pipe Rule.**"

**Summary:** PHMSA is amending the Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations that govern the use of plastic piping systems in the transportation of natural and other gas. These amendments are necessary to enhance pipeline safety, adopt innovative technologies and best practices, and respond to petitions from stakeholders. The changes include increasing the design factor of polyethylene pipe; increasing the maximum pressure and diameter for Polyamide-11 pipe and components; allowing the use of Polyamide-12 pipe and components; new standards for risers, more stringent standards for plastic fittings and joints; stronger mechanical fitting requirements; the incorporation by reference of certain new or updated consensus standards for pipe, fittings, and other components; the qualification of procedures and personnel for joining plastic pipe; the installation of plastic pipe; and a number of general provisions.

**Note:** In March, 2015, EPA reviewed the draft NPRM for this action and had no comments.

### Process Notes / Tips for Responding

There is no strict response format, however, to facilitate compilation of the Agency's comments, please:

- use "Track Changes" (i.e., redline/strikeout and comment 'bubbles') to directly insert comments into the file(s) and
- for general comments/concerns/observations, add them to a new blank page inserted at the beginning of the file, or provide in a separate MSWord file.

Comments do not require documented management approval, but should represent the views of the commenting AA- / RA-ship.

Typically, an AA- / RA-ship with subject matter expertise takes the lead and coordinates preparation of the Agency's response when an interagency review gives rise to extensive comments, or comments from multiple offices. If no office volunteers to take the lead, OP will likely call on the commenting offices to work together to reconcile and compile their comments in order to ensure the commenters' input is not misinterpreted or misconstrued.

If the Agency has a big stake in the outcome, or its response is extensive and/or potentially controversial, the lead office may choose to draft a transmittal note for OP to use when submitting the comments to OMB.

Please submit comments via your Regulatory Steering Committee (RSC) Representative, or Regional Regulatory Contact (RRC), who should send them to the proxy mailbox, InteragencyReviews@epa.gov, or post them in the RSC Team Room.

RSC Reps and RRC's may follow this doclink-->Notes Link

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**Stuart Miles-McLean | Interagency Review Coordinator**

Office of Regulatory Policy & Management | Office of Policy | Office of the Administrator

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